

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the Listing of Claims below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing device comprising:
  - inputting means for inputting an image;
  - detecting means for detecting a face region in the input image;
  - histogram generating means for generating a first histogram of the entire input image and a second histogram of the detected face region;
  - calculating means for calculating a highlight point and a shadow point of the input image from the first histogram of the entire input image;
  - first generating means for generating a gradation correction for luminance and a gradation correction for each of a plurality of color components based on the highlight point, the shadow point, a target highlight point and a target shadow point;
  - conversion means for converting the second histogram based on the highlight point and the shadow point gradation correction generated for the luminance;
  - determining means for determining a representative luminance of the detected face region based on the converted second histogram of the detected face region;
  - second generating means for generating an exposure correction based on the representative luminance; and
  - correcting means for correcting the input image based on the gradation correction generated for each of the plurality of color components and the exposure correction.

2-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

inputting an image;

detecting a face region in the input image;

generating a first histogram of the entire input image and a second histogram of the detected face region;

calculating a highlight point and a shadow point of the input image from the first histogram of the entire input image;

generating a gradation correction for luminance and a gradation correction for each of a plurality of color components based on the highlight point, the shadow point, a target highlight point and a target shadow point;

converting the second histogram based on the highlight point and the shadow point gradation correction generating for the luminance;

determining a representative luminance of the detected face region based on the converted second histogram of the detected face region;

generating an exposure correction based on the representative luminance; and

correcting the input image based on the gradation correction generating for each of the plurality of color components and the exposure correction.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. Previously Presented) The image processing device according to claim 1, further comprising rotating means for rotating the input image in accordance with a posture in a photographic information of the input image.

17. (Previously Presented) The image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the second generating means calculates a γ value based on the representative luminance and a target luminance.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium for storing computer-executable process steps of an image processing device comprising:
- inputting an image;
  - detecting a face region in the input image;
  - generating a first histogram of the entire input image and a second histogram of the detected face region;
  - calculating a highlight point and a shadow point of the input image from the first histogram of the entire input image;
  - generating a gradation correction for luminance and a gradation correction for each of a plurality of color components based on the highlight point, the shadow point, a target highlight point and a target shadow point;
  - converting the second histogram based on the highlight point and the shadow point gradation correction generating for the luminance;
  - determining a representative luminance of the detected face region based on the converted second histogram of the detected face region;
  - generating an exposure correction based on the representative luminance; and
  - correcting the input image based on the gradation correction generating for each of the plurality of color components and the exposure correction.

19. (Canceled)